

Johnson Installs Helms As Director of the CIA

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A festive air pervaded the crowded East Room of the White House yesterday morning when President Johnson arrived to swear in Richard M. Helms as director of the CIA.

The Marine Band had been playing tunes that could never qualify as a score for a James Bond movie, and there wasn't a trenchcoat to be seen in the audience of government officials and their wives gathered to honor Helms.

Mr. Johnson noted that he had "yet to meet a double-o-seven" in his two and a half

years of close dealings with the CIA.

The President said that the CIA's "most significant triumphs come not in secrets passed in the dark" but from reading, dry technical documents.

"In a real sense," Mr. Johnson added, "they are America's professional students."

The President said that Helms, who is 53 years old and has been in government intelligence work for more than 20 years, was better qualified for the CIA directorship than any other man who had held the job.

But Mr. Johnson also had words of praise for Adm. William M. Raborn, the retiring CIA director. The President said he would call Raborn back to the White House one of these days "to receive a high award."

Among those in the East Room were Allen Dulles, a former CIA director, J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI's only director and a frequent critic of the CIA in private, and the Washington correspondent of Tass.

But there were no harsh words yesterday as the spies came in from the summer's heat.

See also ^{story in} N.Y. Times, July 1, 1966, re. ceremony
on 30 June 1966